

## Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
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WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE 4-H CLUB PROGRAM?

## A Brief Study of Central States Figures

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Some figures attract attention. Some figures attract more attention than others.

If figures call attention to certain facts or illustrate certain trends, they become more interesting.

The figures in this study illustrate some of the facts, situations, and trends in the 4-H club program in the Central States. They are based upon the annual reports of all extension agents in this region. They constitute a brief regional summary for 1936, with the background of preceding years.

These figures may suggest certain other studies or tabulations which will be of value in annual reports or as indicating certain situations or trends.

The figures do not constitute a complete report of 4-H club accomplishments during 1936 in the Central States. They do indicate facts and trends. They are not compiled, nor should they be used as a basis of comparison between States.

Some figures attract attention. Some figures attract more attention than others.

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During the year 1936, boys' and girls' 4-H clubs were carried on cooperatively by the United States Department of Agriculture, State agricultural college, and local forces, as an official part of extension work in agriculture and home economics in each of the 13 States in the central region - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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This report contains a series of tabulations which seek to show some of the trends in the 4-H club program in the Central States over a period of years.

### I. SUPERVISION AND PERSONNEL

Records in this office show that on December 31, 1936, the supervisory 4-H club staff in the Central States consisted of:

- 14 State club leaders.
- 68 assistant State club leaders and district agents.
- 93 county club agents.

Table 1.--Supervisory 4-H club staff by States, 1936  
(as of December 31, 1936)

State	Number of State leaders	Number of asst. State leaders and dist. agents	No. of county club agents	No. of asst. county agr. agents
Illinois.....	2	7	4	--
Indiana.....	1	7	4	13
Iowa.....	1	5	41	1
Kansas.....	1	2	4	39
Kentucky.....	1	8	--	35
Michigan.....	1	9	20	--
Minnesota.....	1	7	3	17
Missouri.....	1	3	--	49
Nebraska.....	1	4	--	6
North Dakota.	1	3	1	7
Ohio.....	1	3	10	12
South Dakota.	1	6	--	4
Wisconsin....	1	4	7	4
Total.....	14	68	93	187

These figures represent an increase of 35 county club agents and an increase of 13 assistant or district leaders when compared to the number employed on December 31, 1935. Many of the 187 assistant county agricultural agents gave much of their time to 4-H clubs.

No changes were made in the State club leader personnel. In certain States the titles Assistant State Leader and District Agent are synonymous terms.

Table 2.--Number of counties reporting on 4-H clubs in 1936

State	No. of counties in State	Agricultural agents reporting	Home dem. agents reporting	4-H club agents reporting
Illinois .....	102	88	46	8
Indiana .....	92	78	22	5
Iowa .....	99	47	69	55
Kansas.....	105	101	32	3
Kentucky.....	120	114	41	1
Michigan.....	83	68	19	30
Minnesota.....	87	71	18	47
Missouri.....	114	100	35	--
Nebraska.....	93	82	25	--
North Dakota.....	53	51	7	--
Ohio .....	88	81	33	10
South Dakota.....	69	58	30	--
Wisconsin.....	71	54	17	7

The desirability of county conferences for 4-H club leaders was shown by the fact that 46,419 leaders were reported as directing the affairs of 26,521 organized clubs in 1936, in which were enrolled 373,149 boys and girls. These data indicate a greater utilization of the assistant leader.

A total of 8,785 training meetings for club leaders was reported with an attendance of 164,935. There was reported a total of 150,135 meetings, held by local leaders or committeemen, not participated in by agents, with a total attendance of 2,211,685. These data again call attention to the vast volume of work done by local club leaders.

Table 3.--County conferences for 4-H club leaders, by years

Year	Number of training meetings held for local 4-H club leaders	Total attendance of leaders
1927.....	2,876	29,429
1928.....	3,308	33,618
1929.....	3,959	43,916
1930.....	4,503	64,177
1931.....	5,398	77,264
1932.....	5,586	82,393
1933.....	5,933	108,353
1934.....	5,598	107,876
1935.....	7,171	143,067
1936.....	8,785	164,935

Table 4.--Number of local 4-H club leaders, by years

Year	Men	Women	Older club boys	Older club girls
1930.....	8,331	15,712	2,474	3,823
1931.....	9,701	18,126	3,214	5,198
1932.....	9,477	20,964	3,709	5,922
1933.....	9,276	17,020	3,859	6,336
1934.....	9,202	17,661	4,160	6,309
1935.....	10,725	19,610	4,519	7,139
1936.....	11,943	21,527	5,200	7,749

## II. 4-H CLUB ENROLLMENTS

Total enrollment may be used as one measuring stick in extension work with 4-H clubs. It is indicative of the volume of this phase of extension work.

During 1936 there was in the Central States a total of 373,149 different boys and girls enrolled in 26,521 organized 4-H clubs. There was an increase of 23,758, or 6.17 percent, over the 1935 enrollment. The total enrollment consisted of 156,615 boys and 216,534 girls, or 41.97 percent and 58.03 percent, respectively. The year's enrollment represented 32.57 percent of the total enrollment in the United States.

Table 5.--Enrollments by States, 1936

State	Number of clubs	Boys enrolled	Girls enrolled	Total enrollment	Rank
Illinois.....	2,081	12,796	15,073	27,869	7
Indiana.....	2,757	16,426	28,113	44,539	2
Iowa.....	1,732	11,687	14,270	25,957	8
Kansas.....	948	9,416	10,600	20,016	9
Kentucky.....	1,654	14,713	18,824	33,537	5
Michigan.....	4,114	15,538	20,871	36,409	4
Minnesota.....	1,533	19,991	22,429	42,420	3
Missouri.....	1,908	6,447	11,348	17,795	11
Nebraska.....	2,383	6,636	12,394	19,030	10
North Dakota.	790	3,321	4,806	8,127	13
Ohio.....	3,714	20,043	35,918	55,961	1
South Dakota.	1,111	4,461	6,476	10,937	12
Wisconsin....	1,796	15,140	15,412	30,552	6
Totals ....	26,521	156,615	216,534	373,149	--

Over the period from 1924 to 1936, inclusive, the volume of the 4-H club program in the Central States increased 125.28 percent. In the following table are shown the percentage of gain by States and the ranking based on the percentage of gain.

Table 6.--Enrollment by States, 1924 and 1936

State	1936 enrollment	1924 enrollment	Gain 1936 over 1924	Percentage of gain	Rank
Illinois.....	27,869	7,556	20,313	268.83	1
Indiana.....	44,539	15,300	29,239	191.10	4
Iowa.....	25,957	18,796	7,161	38.10	12
Kansas.....	20,016	5,866	14,150	241.22	2
Kentucky.....	33,537	17,332	16,205	93.50	10
Michigan.....	36,409	15,828	20,581	130.03	8
Minnesota....	42,420	13,112	29,308	223.52	3
Missouri.....	17,795	8,228	9,567	116.27	9
Nebraska.....	19,030	7,550	11,480	152.05	7
North Dakota.	8,127	2,794	5,333	190.87	5
Ohio.....	55,961	21,650	34,311	158.48	6
South Dakota.	10,937	7,190	3,747	52.11	11
Wisconsin....	30,552	24,436	6,116	25.03	13
Central States....	373,149	165,638	207,511	125.28	--

Table 7.--Ranking of States based on total enrollment, by years

State	1936	1934	1932	1930	1928	1926	1924
Illinois.....	7	6	7	6	10	8	9
Indiana.....	2	3	3	3	4	7	6
Iowa.....	8	8	6	7	5	5	3
Kansas.....	9	9	9	9	8	10	12
Kentucky.....	5	7	8	8	7	6	4
Michigan.....	4	5	5	5	6	3	5
Minnesota....	3	2	2	2	1	2	7
Missouri.....	11	11	11	11	9	9	8
Nebraska.....	10	10	10	10	11	12	10
North Dakota.	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Ohio.....	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
South Dakota.	12	12	12	12	12	11	11
Wisconsin....	6	4	4	4	3	4	1

Table 8.--Average number of 4-H club members enrolled per county reporting

State	1936	1932	1928	1924
Illinois .....	290	188	106	89
Indiana.....	489	391	236	204
Iowa.....	260	191	170	194
Kansas.....	198	163	148	136
Kentucky.....	273	196	148	202
Michigan.....	439	387	281	244
Minnesota.....	477	474	486	252
Missouri.....	174	187	180	142
Nebraska.....	226	234	204	157
North Dakota.....	153	180	108	90
Ohio.....	636	472	351	230
South Dakota.....	182	206	203	160
Wisconsin.....	470	582	414	611
Average for Central States	329	286	227	205

Table 9.--Average number of 4-H club members enrolled per agent in 1936 as reported by agents

State	County agricultural agents	County home demonstration agents	County 4-H club agents
Illinois.....	196	173	335
Indiana.....	404	379	594
Iowa.....	131	134	196
Kansas.....	197	261	547
Kentucky.....	223	212	472
Michigan.....	345	334	376
Minnesota.....	421	294	521
Missouri.....	114	184	---
Nebraska.....	155	254	---
North Dakota.....	132	158	---
Ohio.....	414	484	704
South Dakota.....	126	105	---
Wisconsin.....	385	469	646

Another usable measuring stick is the ratio of the number of 4-H club members enrolled to the number of rural young people of 4-H club age in any given area. For further study, these data should be compared with the total 4-H club enrollment in that same area.

Table 10.—Ratio of 4-H club members enrolled to total number of rural (farm and nonfarm) boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age (1930 census)

State	1936	1934	1932	1930
Illinois.....	6.59	5.82	5.60	5.81
Indiana.....	14.64	12.93	11.82	9.42
Iowa.....	8.10	7.21	7.52	7.59
Kansas.....	7.95	7.55	7.05	5.25
Kentucky.....	7.71	5.44	5.31	4.71
Michigan.....	10.95	8.24	8.74	7.79
Minnesota.....	14.19	14.19	12.05	11.66
Missouri.....	4.59	2.96	3.77	3.24
Nebraska.....	9.45	7.11	7.56	6.46
North Dakota.....	5.61	3.57	4.22	3.66
Ohio.....	12.34	11.62	9.79	8.04
South Dakota.....	8.32	5.62	6.75	7.86
Wisconsin.....	9.80	9.89	10.84	9.15
Central States....	9.34	8.04	7.82	6.96

Table 11.—Regional 4-H club enrollments by years compared with U. S. totals

State	Total U.S. enrollment	Total Central States enrollment	Percentage of U. S. total
1924.....	510,355	165,638	32.45
1925.....	565,046	182,674	32.33
1926.....	586,156	189,977	32.41
1927.....	619,712	195,839	31.60
1928.....	663,940	213,869	32.21
1929.....	756,096	254,764	33.69
1930.....	822,714	278,199	33.81
1931.....	890,374	310,826	34.91
1932.....	925,612	312,617	33.77
1933.....	921,965	317,387	34.42
1934.....	916,062	321,371	35.08
1935.....	997,744	349,391	35.02
1936.....	1,145,508	373,149	32.57

Table 12.--Regional increase in 4-H enrollment, by years

State	Regional enrollment	Total gain over preceding year	Percentage of gain
1924.....	165,638	37,740	29.51
1925.....	182,674	17,036	10.28
1926.....	189,977	7,303	4.00
1927.....	195,839	5,862	3.08
1928.....	213,869	18,030	9.21
1929.....	254,764	40,895	19.12
1930.....	278,199	23,435	9.20
1931.....	310,826	32,627	11.73
1932.....	312,617	1,791	0.58
1933.....	317,387	4,770	1.52
1934.....	321,371	3,984	1.26
1935.....	349,391	28,020	8.72
1936.....	373,149	23,758	6.80

### III. 4-H CLUB COMPLETIONS

The total number of club members who successfully completed their work may also be used as a measuring stick. This total indicates the effectiveness of extension teaching with boys and girls. For the year 1936 a total of 295,764 different boys and girls were reported as having completed their work. The percentage of completions for the region was 79.26 percent as compared with 78.34 percent in 1935.

Table 13.--Completions by States, 1936

State	Boys completing	Girls completing	Total completing	Percentage completing	Rank
Illinois.....	10,101	13,025	23,126	82.98	3
Indiana.....	13,058	23,699	36,757	82.53	4
Iowa.....	9,552	12,626	22,178	85.44	1
Kansas.....	7,159	8,273	15,432	77.10	8
Kentucky.....	11,720	14,253	25,973	77.44	7
Michigan.....	12,901	18,008	30,909	84.89	2
Minnesota.....	16,509	18,431	34,940	82.37	5
Missouri.....	4,091	8,096	12,187	68.48	13
Nebraska.....	4,779	9,540	14,319	75.24	9
North Dakota....	2,391	3,617	6,008	73.93	10
Ohio.....	14,841	29,280	44,121	78.84	6
South Dakota....	3,276	4,317	7,593	69.42	12
Wisconsin.....	10,819	11,402	22,221	72.73	11
Totals	121,197	174,567	295,764	79.26	

Table 14.--Ranking of States Based on Percentage of Completions by Years

State	1936	1934	1932	1930	1928	1926	1924
Illinois.....	3	1	1	3	5	4	7
Indiana.....	4	2	3	5	3	2	3
Iowa.....	1	3	2	2	1	7	2
Kansas.....	8	10	11	12	13	5	10
Kentucky.....	7	7	7	11	7	11	11
Michigan.....	2	4	4	4	4	6	8
Minnesota.....	5	6	6	7	6	3	1
Missouri.....	13	12	9	8	12	13	13
Nebraska.....	9	8	10	6	9	8	5
North Dakota....	10	11	8	10	8	9	9
Ohio.....	6	5	5	1	2	1	4
South Dakota	12	13	13	9	11	12	12
Wisconsin	11	9	12	13	10	10	6

For each of the past 13 years the percentage of completions in the Central States has been higher than that for the United States. The 1932 percentage of 81.33 was the highest recorded for any region since the present method of tabulating was established in 1923.

Table 15.--Regional completions by years compared with those for U. S.

Year	Percentage of completions				
	U. S.	Central	Eastern	Western	Southern
1924.....	55.51	65.69	66.38	65.53	44.68
1925.....	58.33	69.00	67.42	67.94	47.53
1926.....	62.83	72.73	68.56	69.36	53.58
1927.....	64.40	72.19	71.61	69.79	56.57
1928.....	67.11	76.02	72.07	72.84	59.50
1929.....	67.12	75.96	71.08	75.73	58.40
1930.....	67.38	78.96	70.16	78.44	56.36
1931.....	70.67	80.14	73.06	77.44	61.49
1932.....	72.46	81.33	76.50	79.35	63.54
1933.....	72.22	81.12	77.50	75.99	62.99
1934.....	71.15	78.87	76.96	77.54	61.94
1935.....	70.73	78.34	77.69	77.26	61.63
1936.....	69.79	79.26	77.35	76.91	60.69

#### IV. 4-H CLUB PROJECTS

There was little change in the list of 4-H club projects carried on in 1936 by the States in the central region. Both boys and girls were enrolled in every project.

Table 16.--Ranking of projects based on enrollments

Project	1936 enrollment	Rank in 1936	Rank in 1930	Rank in 1924
Clothing.....	123,314	1	1	1
Food preparation.....	54,912	2	2	7
Poultry.....	28,714	3	5	2
Swine.....	24,531	4	4	3
Home gardens.....	24,148	5	7	4
Dairy cattle.....	23,407	6	3	6
Beef cattle.....	17,936	7	8	10
Food preservation.....	17,581	8	6	5
Corn.....	15,383	9	9	9
Sheep.....	14,892	10	11	11
House furnishing.....	13,488	11	13	12
Potato.....	10,829	12	10	8
Handicraft.....	10,435	13	12	--
Beautification of home grounds.....	6,124	14	14	13
Forestry.....	5,174	15	15	--

V. 4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

Commensurate with the increase in the volume of club work was the growth in the number of demonstration teams trained and used. A total of 16,767 demonstration teams was reported. Team or individual demonstrations representing every project were reported.

Judging teams in practically all agricultural and home-economics projects were reported in 1936. A total of 12,514 judging teams were trained and used as another means of presenting 4-H club work to the public and of teaching subject matter to club members. They also were an aid in establishing standards.

A much larger number of club members received training in judging than those represented on the teams, since the team members usually were selected by means of elimination contests.

Table 17.--Number of demonstration and judging teams trained

Year	No. demonstration teams trained	No. judging teams trained
1926	5,023	2,089
1927	5,038	2,003
1928	6,337	2,335
1929	8,029	3,306
1930	9,478	4,526
1931	12,180	6,213
1932	13,632	7,006
1933	12,454	6,973
1934	13,741	7,353
1935	15,751	10,006
1936	16,767	12,514

A study of reported figures on 4-H club camps over the past 11 years reveals the fact that the camping idea is increasing in favor as a means of providing wholesome recreation for 4-H club members.

Table 18.--4-H club camps and attendance

Year	Number of camps	Member attendance	Total attendance
1926	525	25,659	38,715
1927	687	25,798	33,804
1928	572	29,210	34,655
1929	673	36,920	46,840
1930	785	41,048	64,644
1931	649	39,465	61,910
1932	743	39,229	61,131
1933	486	31,361	48,567
1934	572	33,359	46,872
1935	662	35,508	46,452
1936	786	52,250	65,498

## VI. MORE INTERESTING FIGURES

Over the period of 1924 to 1936, inclusive, the proportion of about 4 boys to 6 girls out of each 10 club members has been maintained.

Table 19.--Percentage of boys and girls in total enrollment

Year	Percentage of boys	Percentage of girls
1924	41.82	58.18
1925	38.84	61.16
1926	39.71	60.29
1927	41.16	58.84
1928	39.82	60.18
1929	39.32	60.68
1930	39.54	60.46
1931	40.12	59.87
1932	41.48	58.51
1933	41.54	58.46
1934	40.73	59.27
1935	40.94	59.06
1936	41.97	58.03

Comparative percentages show that, in the Central States, rural young people from 16 to 21 years of age are continuing as 4-H club members to a greater extent than in 1930.

Table 20.--Percentage of all members according to age

Age of member	1936	1934	1932	1930
10.....	11.09	10.74	10.84	10.97
11.....	12.26	11.94	12.02	12.06
12.....	14.58	14.79	14.45	15.71
13.....	14.46	14.64	14.42	15.45
14.....	13.65	13.37	13.87	14.71
15.....	11.74	11.24	11.70	11.77
16.....	8.97	9.17	9.37	8.79
17.....	6.15	6.43	6.34	5.55
18.....	3.86	4.15	3.96	3.03
19.....	2.08	2.31	2.01	1.36
20 and over....	1.17	1.22	1.02	0.60

Evidently rural young people are finding their 4-H club experience to be a satisfactory one. In greater numbers they are continuing as 4-H members for the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth year, or longer, than in 1930.

Table 21.--Percentage of all members according to years in club

Years in club	1936	1934	1932	1930
1.....	45.52	42.63	42.59	49.28
2.....	22.57	22.68	25.57	25.49
3.....	13.30	14.61	15.18	13.29
4.....	8.14	9.52	8.72	6.72
5.....	4.96	5.63	4.38	3.14
6 and over.....	5.50	4.93	3.56	2.08

During the college year of 1936-37 a total of 4,250 former 4-H club members were enrolled as students in agriculture and home economics in the State colleges of agriculture in the Central States. They constituted 33.8 percent of the students enrolled in these courses.

Table 22.--Former 4-H members at agricultural colleges

Year	Total number of former 4-H club members enrolled in agriculture and home economics	Percentage of former 4-H club members to total student enrollment in agriculture and home economics
1927-28	751	18.5
1929-30	1,758	26.3
1930-31	2,263	24.7
1931-32	1,863	27.2
1932-33	2,178	28.54
1933-34	2,335	31.36
1934-35	2,916	31.70
1935-36	3,395	31.96
1936-37	4,250	33.80